

(Richerson) knew our patterns. He knew everything about our family, and that's scary.

**What was your thought process once the case began?**

I had lots of anxiety. Once I heard he pleaded not guilty, I began to fear for my daughter. It was such a horrible thought. I cried and cried. I was so scared she might have to take the stand. I don't think she could give her side of what happened. I felt like he had overwhelmed her, and I thought if the outcome of this case depended on her testimony, he might not be convicted. I was frightened that the jury would see her as a willing participant. I feared if he did not go to prison, that we would be at risk, because he knew so much about our patterns.

**How did you feel after sentencing?**

Ten years wasn't enough. No amount of time, in my mind, was going to be enough. I'm very proud I had (Assistant U.S. Attorney) Hydee Hawkins, who prosecuted the case, in my corner. KSP Detective Clyde Bertram and the Richmond police were wonderful. But, I know my daughter wasn't the first person he exploited and won't be the last. I still fear 2016 when he gets out. I fear he will try to find my daughter.

**How helpful was law enforcement throughout this process?**

They were awesome. They kept me informed, just calling me all the time to let me know what I could expect. They really went the extra mile. Detectives Eric Long and Brian Lafferty kept an open phone line for me to call them at all hours, not only with questions and concerns, but also just to talk. That's more than just the 9 to 5 job. Hydee and Georgette Smith (the Victim/Witness coordinator at the U.S. Attorney's Office) called me ahead of time before

court proceedings to let me know what I could expect.

They let me know when he pleaded not guilty, that it was typical and the case was going as expected. That was such a relief, because your mind isn't normal during this process. You question everything, and they helped calm me. I feel indebted to them. Without those people, I don't know how I would've been able to cope with it.

**What would you tell law enforcement about dealing with victims in similar cases?**

Support means so much from a victim standpoint. For a victim to know someone cares, that means the world. Because if you feel overwhelmed, you can just call them to bridge that gap. Making sure the door is open for a good line of communication is the main thing. The detectives were there for me. Even now they are just a phone call or an email away, and that means the world to me.

**How did the experience change your life?**

In my discussions with KSP Detective Clyde Bertram, I found out there were other cases like ours, and that there were literally 20, 30 and 40 computers ready to be looked at for similar crimes. I was astounded about how these detectives work. I began realizing that it is more widespread, and our case wasn't just an isolated incident or one single case. It was then that I decided to go back to school and get a Computer Information Systems degree. I could use that to help protect my family and to help other parents protect their children and hopefully teach them to be proactive. Because if you're not, you're welcoming predators into your home through the computer. 🐞